1 + 1 = HUH?

FROM WOODY AND SOON-YI TO BENNIFER, THIS IS HOW AVRIL AND CHAD REMIND US OF OTHER ODD CELEBRITY COUPLINGS PAGE 8

SASKATOON
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Monday, August 27, 2012
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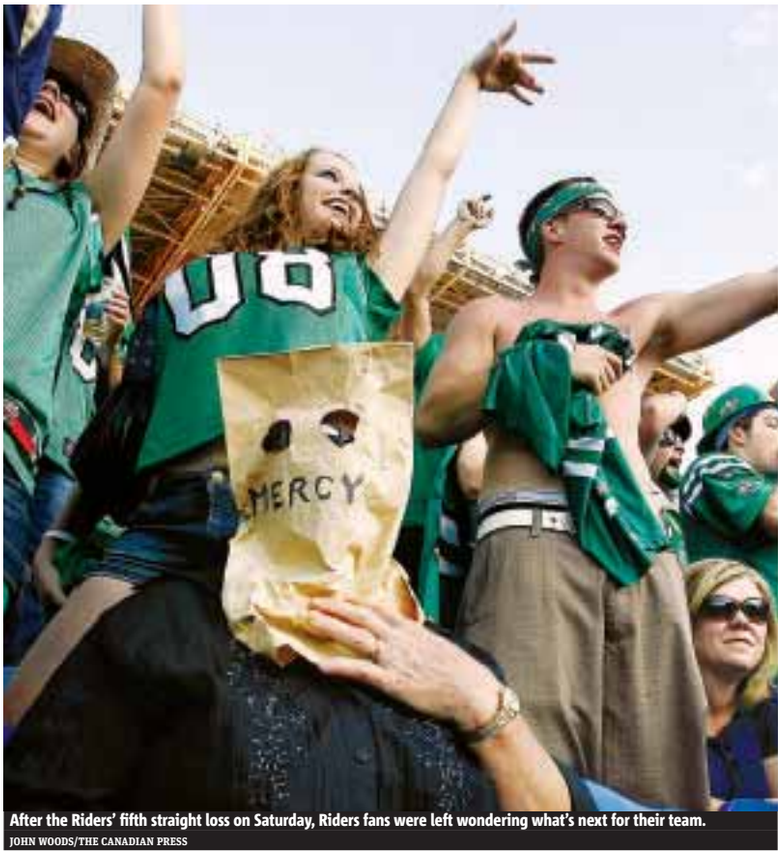
Rider Nation looks for change



After the Riders' fifth straight loss on Saturday, Riders fans were left wondering what's next for their team.
JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Five-game slump.
After team extends losing streak, fans say they want more fire from players

ROB BROWN
Metro in Regina

The Saskatchewan Roughriders' 17-10 loss to the Calgary Stampeders on Saturday has shaken Rider Nation. Their team is now on a five-game losing streak and sits at the bottom of the CFL's West Division.

Ken Dietz, a resident of Sceptre, Sask., thought the Riders were doomed before the game began.

"No energy. (Riders defensive end Brent) Hawkins came busting out of the tunnel pumped … and everybody else kind of trailed out," said the 30-year-plus season-ticket holder.

Tweets

Jeremy Hendrixxx (@TheReaIJPesos): @dariandurant is not having a bad season I place the blame on the offensive coordinator we need to fire him and hire Buddy from WPG #Riders

Nolan Gibbons (@ngibbons): Hey #Taman what changes are you going to make to end this slide?? #Riders #CFL it's obvious something needs to be done!! #ridernation

Clare Kines (@NunavutBirder): Labour Day Classic next weekend. Hard 2believe I'll cheer for the #Riders for the 1st time cause of what the #Bombers did to LaPo #FireMack

"They didn't play enough football," Regina resident Dave Bellman said the morning after the loss. "They should have started the game with the effort of the last 10 minutes."

Some Rider fans in Saskatoon say they've had it with quarterback Darian Durant.

Al Mchaffie, a lifelong Riders fan, said, "It's Durant. We've got to do something there. We need to change it up and get Willy in there."

Others, like Amar Vasani, agreed.

"We need to make some changes in the offence," said Vasani. "If you look at Drew Willy and what he's been able to do for the short yards — I think we have to give him a chance."

Durant completed 17 of 29 passes for 179 yards on Saturday, compared to Calgary's Kevin Glenn, who completed 15 of 24 passes for 171 yards.

The Riders will look to get back on track on Sept. 9 when they face the Winnipeg Blue Bombers at Mosaic Stadium.

WITH FILES FROM MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Missing but not forgotten

The Native Women's Association of Canada put the spotlight on missing aboriginal women across the country at its annual assembly PAGE 2

The original moonwalker

What Neil Armstrong, who died Saturday at age 82, accomplished is 'a human achievement that will be remembered forever' PAGE 4

Scary sendoff to school

The first step to calming your nerves as your little ones board the bus for the first time is acknowledging that you're anxious PAGE 10

NEWS 1

Missing aboriginal women focus of national assembly

NWAC. Organizers say issue still top priority for native women

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

This past weekend, the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) held its Annual General Assembly in Saskatoon, which focused primarily on missing aboriginal women.

Claudette Dumont-Smith, executive director of NWAC, said the group is calling on both the federal and provincial governments for a national inquiry into missing aboriginal women across the country.

"Every year for the past several years we've been very concerned about the missing and murdered aboriginal women, so that's really a big priority," said Claudette Dumont-Smith, executive director of NWAC.

"We have to think about other matters that would improve the living conditions of aboriginal women, such as health, education, employment — so all of these are issues … they're very important, but with the high numbers of missing and murdered aboriginal women, we have to be very focused on that."

Judy Hughes president of the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation, who hosted the assembly, said the event is an important one for collaboration across province and territories on the issue of missing aboriginal women and others.

"The issue of violence against aboriginal women and girls — particularly murdered and missing women — has been NWAC's number one priority, and I think for aboriginal women, the number one priority right across the board," said Hughes.

"We share a lot of the same concerns and issues and there are different ways we can work towards a solution and having those ideas, thoughts — and being able to build those partnerships has helped in being able to provide the supports and services that are needed in our communities."

A shining example of proud classic-car owner

Garry Harms poses with his 1927 Ford T-Bucket Sunday morning. He was one of the many classic-car owners who brought their ride out for the Rock 102 Cruise Weekend Show and Shine, held in downtown Saskatoon. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

On the web

A frighteningly smart bird has figured out how to use bread as bait to catch fish. Scan the code to see why this cold, calculating critter has the world on edge.

Hilltops' defence still improving: Coach

Kyle McGinnis, receiver with the Saskatoon Hilltops, braces for a tackle during Sunday's game against the Edmonton Huskies. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

The Saskatoon Hilltops walked away with their second win of the season against the Edmonton Huskies Sunday afternoon.

Taking the game 36 to 10, head coach Tom Sargeant said it was the team's strong combination of defence and offence that helped secure the win.

"We're very pleased with this performance and it's a game film we can send out and be proud about," said Sargeant.

"We only play these guys once this year, so this win was huge in terms of the standings and head-to-head, every game is important — especially when you're playing at home."

He explained, "Defence played exceptional today (and) offence, we were great between the 20 and 20. We just couldn't finish, but as I said it's a long process and we'll keep working and digging to improve the product we have."

Sargeant also said the defence is something that's improving every game.

"They played a lot smarter, they played real hard and they got after things," said Sargeant.

"I've been hard on them all week, the coaches have been as well and real happy about how they stepped up their game."

Check it out

- The Hilltops next game is against the Regina Thunder on Sept. 8 in Saskatoon.

One of the receivers who had his hands on the ball quite a bit was Kyle McGinnis.

"It feels really good to have the confidence of not only the coaches, but of my quarterback," said McGinnis. "I've been out there making plays in practice all week, trying to earn my respect."

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Act of God. Critics point out irony in Republican logic

The hotly anticipated Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., kicks off this week, though it's now at the mercy of a would-be hurricane bearing down to join forces with the tempest already inflicted upon Mitt Romney and the Republican party by an anti-abortion Missouri congressman.

The irony of a potential hurricane wreaking havoc on the convention hasn't been lost on many pundits, especially since several high-profile conservatives, including Republican congresswoman Michele Bachmann, have blamed liberal policies over the years for similar "acts of God."

"By their own logic, Republicans and their conservative allies should be concerned that Isaac is a form of divine retribution," Washington Post columnist Dana Milbank wrote last week.

Indeed, the recent remarks from U.S. Senate candidate Todd Akin about women's bodies shutting down and preventing pregnancy in cases of "legitimate rape" have already exposed dangerous fault lines in the party's fragile coalition of disparate factions.

"This is a classic bullhorn lock between the social conservatives of the party and the big business, economy-focused Republicans, the ones who are really worried about taxes and deregulation and other economic matters," says Doug Brinkley, a historical author and history professor at Rice University in Houston. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protestors gather in Gas Light Park in downtown Tampa, Fla., Sunday for a rally against the Republican National Convention. PATRICK SEMANSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tropical storm expected to hit on 7th anniversary of Katrina

On the move. Keys residents nonchalant about Isaac's soaking, but Gulf Coast braced for potential hurricane

A cyclist rides his bike in Key West, Fla., Sunday. Tropical Storm Isaac gained fresh muscle Sunday as it bore down on the Florida Keys, with forecasters warning it could grow into a dangerous Category 2 hurricane as it nears the northern Gulf Coast. ALAN DIAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tropical Storm Isaac barely stirred Florida Keys residents from their fabled nonchalance Sunday, while the Gulf Coast braced for the possibility that the sprawling storm will strengthen into a dangerous hurricane by the time it makes landfall there.

Isaac was expected to cross the Keys by late afternoon, then turn northwest and strike as a Category 2 hurricane somewhere between the New Orleans area to the Florida Panhandle on Wednesday, the seventh anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

The storm was predicted to pass west of Tampa, the site of the Republican National Convention, but it had already disrupted the schedule there because of the likelihood of heavy rain and strong winds.

Even before reaching hurricane strength, Isaac caused considerable inconvenience, with hundreds of flights cancelled at airports in Miami and Fort Lauderdale. There were scattered power outages from Key West to Fort Lauderdale affecting more than 6,000 customers, and flooding occurred in low-lying areas.

Wind gusts of 60 m.p.h. were reported as far north as Pompano Beach, north of Fort Lauderdale. But while officials urged residents in southeast Florida to stay home, that recommendation was ignored by surfers and joggers on Miami Beach and shoppers at area malls.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First man on the moon dead at 82

Neil Armstrong. 600 million sets of eyes were fixed on astronaut during 1969 moon landing

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley stands behind the podium in front of a picture display of Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, in the Tampa Bay Times Forum at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., on Sunday. Armstrong died Saturday. DAVID GOLDMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When Neil Armstrong took that first small step on the moon, an entire globe watched in grainy black-and-white from a quarter million miles away.

Although more than half of the world's population wasn't alive then, it was an event that changed and expanded the globe.

His first words after the feat are etched in history books and the memories of the spellbound millions who heard them in a live broadcast.

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," Armstrong said.

Armstrong, who had bypass surgery earlier this month, died Saturday at age 82 from what his family said were complications of heart procedures.

Those first steps in 1969 were beamed to nearly every country around the world, thanks to a recently launched satellite. It was truly the first global mass media event, Logsdon said. An estimated 600 million people — one out of every five on the planet — watched.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"It's a human achievement that will be remembered forever."

John Logsdon, professor emeritus of space policy at George Washington University

Pussy Riot. Two members flee Russia to escape same fate as bandmates

A supporter of the Russian female punk band Pussy Riot at a protest outside the Russian consulate in Toronto on Aug. 17. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two members of the punk band Pussy Riot have fled Russia to avoid prosecution for a protest against Vladimir Putin that sent three of their bandmates to prison, the group said Sunday.

Five members of the feminist group took part in a provocative performance inside Moscow's main cathedral in February to protest the Russian leader's rule and his cozy relationship with the Orthodox Church. The women wore their trademark garishly coloured balaclavas, which made it difficult for police to identify them, and only three were arrested.

After a controversial trial that highlighted Putin's crackdown on dissent since he began a third presidential term in May, the three band members were convicted of hooliganism and sentenced to two years in prison on Aug. 17.

Days later, Moscow police said they were searching for the other band members, an apparent warning to the group to stop its anti-Putin protests.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More band members

At least 12 other members of the group remain in Russia, the band tweeted on Sunday.

Togo

Women urged to go on sex strike to oust president

The female wing of a civil-rights group is urging women in Togo to stage a weeklong sex strike to demand the resignation of the country's president.

Women are being asked to start withholding sex from their husbands or partners as of Monday, said Isabelle Ameganvi, leader of the women's wing of the group Let's Save Togo. She said the strike will put pressure on Togo's men to take action against President Faure Gnassingbe.

Ameganvi, a lawyer, told The Associated Press that her group is following the example of Liberia's women, who used a sex strike in 2003 to campaign for peace.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Explosion at oil refinery kills dozens

Members of a family walk on a street as flames rise after an explosion at the Amuay refinery near Punto Fijo, Venezuela, on Sunday. ARIANA CUBILLOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venezuelans who live next to the country's biggest oil refinery said they smelled a strong odour of sulfur hours before a gas leak ignited in an explosion that killed at least 39 people and injured more than 80.

Residents in a neighbourhood next to the refinery said that starting about 7 p.m. on Friday they noticed the unusually strong odour. Government officials say the blast occurred about 1:15 a.m. on Saturday when the gas leak created a cloud that ignited.

A total of 209 homes and 11 businesses were damaged in the explosion, and a National Guard post next to the refinery was destroyed, Vice-President Elias Jaua said on Saturday. He said 18 of the victims were National Guard soldiers.

More than a day after the blast, the flames were still raging on Sunday, sending up a column of dark smoke.

Some oil experts and government critics were also raising questions, saying they believe there hasn't been sufficient maintenance at refineries and that the situation could be making such incidents more likely. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The lives Syrian rebels left to fight against Assad's rule

Civil war. The mixed bunch includes butchers, barbers, construction workers and university students

Clockwise from top left: Syrian rebel fighters, Amir Hajji, 20, Mohammed Abu Razouk, 27, Badir Farouh, 17, and Mohammed Sami, 22. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rebels fighting a civil war they hope will end Syrian President Bashar Assad's authoritarian rule are a combination of army defectors, Islamists, intellectuals, labourers and other ordinary people — who took up arms against one of the Middle East's most brutal police states.

Mohammed Sami, 22, said he sold vegetables and worked in a grocery store in a small town in northern Syria before persuading his father to invest in his dream: a barber shop.

He worked with a friend and their shop had two chairs, big mirrors, electric clippers and a TV set.

After the uprising started, he said they hung a revolutionary flag on the wall. When soldiers raided the village, Sami said they set his place on fire.

Soon after, Sami said he joined the rebels.

Bader Farouh, 17, said he got arrested soon after catching the revolutionary bug. The second time police caught him at a protest, he said they hung him naked on a wall for more beatings.

Afterward, he said his father took him to the head of a local rebel brigade and told him: "Take him and treat him like one of your sons."

Ahmed al-Saleh, 22, said he wanted to go to university after he graduated from high school but didn't have the money to pay for it or the grades to get the government to do so. So he said he joined the police and stamped passports at an isolated border crossing with Turkey.

Before he joined the rebels, he said he supported it "in his heart" but kept quiet.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Massacre. Mass burials held in Damascus suburb

Dozens of bloodied bodies were buried Sunday in mass graves in a Damascus suburb where activists claim more than 300 people have been killed over the past week in a major government offensive to take back control of rebel-held areas in and around the capital.

The British-based activist group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 32 more dead bodies were found in the streets of Daraya on Sunday and that they had been killed by "gunfire and summary executions." It put the toll for the past week as at least 320.

Another activist group, the Local Coordination Committees, claimed 300 bodies were discovered Saturday in Daraya and 633 people have been killed there since the government launched its assault last week.

President Bashar Assad, in comments carried by state media, reiterated his long-standing claim that a foreign plot was behind the uprising against his rule and said he would not allow it to succeed "whatever the price might be."

It was impossible to independently verify the death tolls because of severe restrictions on media coverage of the conflict. However, activists and residents have reported excessive use of force by the regime in major battles, with indiscriminate shelling from the ground and the air.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Intervention

Britain's minister for Middle East affairs, Alistair Burt, meanwhile, said that, if confirmed, the massacre "would be an atrocity on a new scale requiring unequivocal condemnation from the entire international community."

Drawdown

NATO closes bases in Afghanistan

NATO has closed more than 200 bases in Afghanistan and transferred nearly 300 others to local forces, a concrete step toward its 2014 target of handing over security responsibility, NATO officers said Sunday.

All 202 closed facilities were small, ranging from isolated checkpoints to bases of a dozen to 300 soldiers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli Embassy attack

Egyptian court convicts 76

A Cairo court has convicted 76 Egyptians on charges linked to last year's attack by protesters on the Israeli Embassy: 75 got one-year sentences, the other, five years in prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toxic chemical

Most Bisphenol A ending up in landfill or destroyed: Study

Most of the Bisphenol A contained in everyday products is either destroyed or winds up in landfills, says a new study for Environment Canada.

The finding helps to allay concerns that BPA, which mimics the hormone estrogen, persists for long periods in the environment — but critics say the study should not stall efforts to eliminate the chemical altogether.

Since April, key industries have been required to develop plans to reduce the amount of BPA they release into the environment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eurozone crisis

Greece must respect bailout timeline: Roesler

Germany's economy minister has rejected calls for Greece to get more time to implement economic reforms, saying Sunday that Athens needs to respect the bailout deal reached with its international creditors.

Philipp Roesler's comments to ZDF television come after a visit by Greece's prime minister to Berlin on Friday, during which Antonis Samaras told German Chancellor Angela Merkel that his country needs "time to breathe" before it can make all the budget cuts and reforms demanded as part of its bailout packages. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$3-billion project

Designer envisions glass tower on Venice skyline

French fashion designer Pierre Cardin has designed a gift meant as an economic catalyst for Venice and the region: a 250-meter-tall glass skyscraper housing a fashion university, luxury hotel suites and shops.

But the proposed $3-billion project faces criticism for the size and appearance of the skyscraper.

An exhibit on the project opens Monday on the sidelines of the Venice Biennale of architecture.

Cardin, 90, intends the project to be a gift to his native Veneto, the Italian region he left at age 2 to move to France. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murdoch making a point by running Harry photos?

'Mooning the Establishment'. Reports suggest scandal-plagued mogul may be pushing back on press freedom by challenging royals

By letting his top-selling U.K. tabloid run photos of a naked Prince Harry cavorting in a Las Vegas hotel room, some say media mogul Rupert Murdoch was warning Britain's establishment that he could still shake things up.

British officialdom has largely turned its back on Murdoch because of the phone-hacking scandal that has badly tainted his media empire over the past year. So even though Murdoch's The Sun newspaper framed its decision to publish the nude pictures as a defence of press freedom, some observers saw the move as a feisty message from the tycoon.

"Not only was The Sun showing Harry's bottom, Murdoch was mooning the Establishment," said journalist Jane Merrick, whose article in The Independent on Sunday alleged that Murdoch personally ordered the paper to run the photos in a phone call with Tom Mockridge, the chief of his British newspaper unit, News International.

Murdoch, once assiduously courted by lawmakers across the British political spectrum, has seen his clout wither after his company was exposed as having hacked into the phones of hundreds of people to score scoops.

Allegations of bribery, corruption, computer hacking, and obstruction of justice are being investigated, and the scandal has prompted a judge-led media-ethics inquiry that could propose sweeping changes to how Britain's press is policed - potentially subjecting newspapers to government regulation.

If The Sun was cowed, it didn't show it Friday, when it published the pictures of Harry along with a lengthy public-interest justification claiming that the "the photos have potential implications for the Prince's image representing Britain around the world."

News International has declined to comment on what role, if any, the 81-year-old Murdoch played in the decision to run the photos, but the mogul's Twitter posts suggested that, at the very least, he'd been following the issue closely.

In a message to a user who congratulated him on The Sun's challenge to the royal family, Murdoch said he "needed to demonstrate (that there is) no such thing as free press in UK."

"Internet makes mockery of these issues," he said, adding that Britain could use some First Amendment-style legislation.

But the mogul also extended an olive branch to the royals, telling his followers to give the prince "a break." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"He may be on the public payroll one way or another, but the public loves him."

News International head Rupert Murdoch, on royal rogue Prince Harry

Prince Harry waits to present the winners' medals during the London Marathon last April. SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple verdict may hurt competitors: Analysts

Samsung's Galaxy S III smartphone, right, and Apple's iPhone 4S are displayed at a store in Seoul, South Korea, on Friday. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It was the $1-billion question: What does Apple's victory in an epic patent dispute over its fiercest rival mean for the U.S. smartphone industry?

Analysts from Wall Street to Hong Kong debated whether a jury's decision that Samsung ripped off Apple technology would help Apple dominate the U.S. smartphone market over Android rivals, or amount to one more step in a protracted legal battle over smartphone technology.

Many analysts said the decision could spell danger for competitors who, like Samsung, use Google's Android operating system to power their cellphones.

A loss to the Android-based market would represent a big hit for Google as well.

"I am sure this is going to put a damper on Android's growth," New York-based Isi Group analyst Brian Marshall said, "It hurts the franchise."

The Silicon Valley jury found that some of Samsung's products illegally copied features and designs exclusive to Apple's iPhone and iPad.

Some experts cautioned that the jury's decision might not be final, noting the California lawsuit is one of nine similar legal actions across the globe between the two leading smartphone makers.

Samsung has vowed to appeal the verdict all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that Apple's patents for such "obvious" things as the rounded rectangle design of its products were wrongly granted. A Sept. 20 hearing is scheduled. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smaller spaces. Furniture retailers eye condo-dwellers

The pint-sized units inside the glass condo towers popping up all over urban centres aren't the only things getting smaller.

"Every major furniture retailer now has a line that is apartment- or condo-sized," says Elaine Cecconi, co-owner of interior design consultant firm Cecconi Simone.

"There's so much product out there for small-space inhabitants that it's become more of the mainstream, I would say, than a trend in the furniture industry."

Census figures for 2011 released in February show multi-unit dwellings — a category that includes condominiums — making up roughly half of all new housing stock, a category traditionally led by detached homes.

The numbers also indicate that Canadians are flocking to urban centres. Toronto's population jumped more than 17 per cent over the previous census period in 2006.

This condo boom, fuelled by lifestyle changes and efforts to curb urban sprawl, is in turn revolutionizing the furniture-retail business. As our cities become denser and space becomes more limited, there's a growing demand for compact, space-efficient and multi-use furniture, says Cecconi.

Storage units with fold-out beds inside. Adjustable tables that drop down from dining room to coffee-table height. These modern, European-style furnishings are booming in popularity as designers and retailers respond to diminishing physical space.

"It's a way to multi-task within a limited square footage," says Cecconi.

"It's really imperative that furniture be the right size for these units. You don't want oversized furniture that's intended for a more conventional home in a small-space unit because it overtakes the room that it sits in." THE CANADIAN PRESS

MOM'S HAVING A TOUGH TIME FITTING INTO HER KID'S TIARA

URBAN COMPASS
Paul Sullivan
saskatchewan@metronews.ca

As I have an irresistible need to suffer email abuse, I've decided to go where angels merely fly over: kiddie beauty pageants.

If you think these things are the exclusive disorder of Americans, think again. You must have missed the Fun in the Sun Pageant or the Starry Night Spring Pageant in Regina so far this year, but there's still time to register your tyke for the judges' scrutiny at the Saskatoon September Pageant or the Regina Halloween Pageant.

Contestants who succeed in conquering the other kiddies by being better looking or better dressed can advance to national pageants and so on. Someday they could grow up to cut ribbons at supermarkets. Dare to dream.

Of course, this is the jaded outlook of a professional grouch. The organizers take pains to distinguish Miss All Canadian Pageants from those horrid U.S. abominations, also known as glitz pageants. These are all "natural," if natural involves getting all dolled up and parading in front of a judge when you're three when you should be at home pulling the cat's tail like any normal little kid.

Apparently, too, the bad old days are over. Instead of just objectifying little girls, these events now also objectify little boys, although if you go through the photos on the allcanadianpageants.com website, precious few are boys. The vast majority are little girls in tiaras. You see, every little girl gets a tiara just for participating, although the winner gets the biggest tiara — four inches high! Tiara ranking — who knew?

What can you say about a three-year-old kid who has known nothing but beauty pageants all her short life — entering her first pageant at three weeks old, crowned queen 18 times? What are the exact criteria for a toddling monarch? Potty trained? Did not drool?

The queen mother (the real contestant), recently told a local reporter that her kid glows on stage: "She's very bubbly and outgoing. It's something she enjoys."

This self-justifying refrain is familiar to Psychology Today author Martina M. Cartwright, PhD, RD, who writes: "When confronted, devotees said: 'My daughter loves it.'

"For these kids," writes Cartwright, "the constant 'play acting' may create hyper-competitive, shallow adults who are never satisfied."

I suppose pageant moms are no worse and maybe better than those hyper-competitive, shallow hockey dads and moms who need to spend a lot of alone time in the penalty box, thinking about what they're doing to their children.

As far as I know, kiddie-pageant contestants aren't subject to concussions, although those four-inch tiaras can lead to a swelled head.

True Blood recipes

Cookbook stakes out vampire eats

True Blood fans can soon concoct their own blood-red beet bisque, crimson sweet tea and other Cajun delicacies inspired by the hit HBO vampire drama and compiled in a new cookbook.

True Blood is filmed partly in Louisiana and is set in the fictional Louisiana town of Bon Temps. The state's cuisine is often referenced in the series, where vampires and mortals mingle over bowls of okra gumbo, jambalaya, and red beans and rice.

The cookbook, True Blood: Eats, Drinks, and Bites from Bon Temps, was compiled by Cajun chef Marcelle Bienvenu and is being released in bookstores on Wednesday, shortly after Sunday's broadcast of the show's fifth-season finale.

"I'm going to be honest with you: I had never seen the show before they asked me to do this cookbook," said Bienvenu, a chef from the Cajun town of St. Martinville, La., who lived in New Orleans for several years and now teaches culinary arts at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La.

"I sat down and watched it with my notebook, and I was amazed how much food was mentioned in the series," she said. "It was fun making the recipes come to life. I think people are still mystified by south Louisiana food. There's still such a mystique about the food and culture here." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horse-drawn boat, anyone?

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Post-Olympic transport

Boat celebrates birthday in style

This was the first canal boat to be pulled through London, England, by a horse in 60 years. The Ilkeston barge was on its way to the London Canal Museum to mark its 100th birthday, after being restored to mint condition in the North of England. It was led there by Buddy, a 13-year-old Clydesdale horse, surely grateful this is no longer a common practice. METRO

Cheap price

344

The cost in pounds sterling (about $544) that the Ilkeston was sold for in 1945 when it finished its span as a cargo ship. Between then and its restoration, it was used as a "mud boat" for dredging the canal floor.

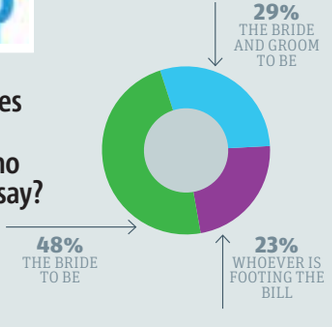
Horse jobs

- **Pit ponies.** Used to haul coal underground from the 18th century until 1971, often replacing child labour.
- **Hansom cab horses.** Fastest way to travel in the 19th century, they were extremely popular. Eventually replaced by taxis.
- **War horses.** Supplied cavalry units for thousands of years. Finally recognized by a 2011 Steven Spielberg film and hit play.

Kevin Darke steers The Ilkeston after it was restored by volunteers and trainees at the National Waterways Museum.

Survey results provided by Play Taxi Media

When it comes to wedding planning, who gets the last say?



Twitter

@DmyersDarcy:
@katrinawalker88 family is great, sorry i didn't see you in #ypa #missyou be in #yxe tomorrow!

@jnbauer:
Oh boy, I think it's time to go home. I keep tearing up everytime I see other kids. #IFBC it's been a blast, but #yxe here I come!

@CourtineeB:
Packing! See you soon #yxe #7daysandcounting

@mizey13:
Wow, Where has the summer gone??!! One of the best Sask summers. Bring on the new school year and some family hockey madness!

@celli_beans:
I want my mom's saskatoon berry jam recipe, but I don't want to have to call my mom to get it. #telepathy?

metro

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SCENE 2

The odd (celebrity) couple

The engagement of Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger has shocked Sk8er Bois and wannabe rockstars alike. This is how they remind us of some other strange star couplings.

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News

Congratulations are in order for Canada's most famous couple that no one knew existed, Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger. Lavigne annoyed millions (all the way to the platinum-tinged bank) with her "punk" records and pop singles. Kroeger has drawn much criticism for his lead singer role in Nickleback — so much so that even he's joined in and jokingly lashed back at the hatred through tongue-in-cheek videos on Funny or Die and quips on Twitter.

The two surprised fans and enemies alike by getting engaged after six months of discretely dating while they were co-writing a song for Lavigne's fifth studio album.

But they're not the most shocking couple out there. Here's a couple more pairings that had us stunned.

Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez

He was raised in Boston. She grew up the Bronx. Somehow, these two managed to get together for what we are quite sure was a meaningful, not-long-lasting relationship. And, um, Gigli.

Woody Allen and Soon-Yi Previn

Though legally he wasn't her stepfather, Allen's relationship with Previn's adoptive mother, Mia Farrow, made the whole situation icky. It must be true love though: They've been together since 1992 and have two adopted daughters.

Lisa Marie Presley and Nicolas Cage

Gossip mills say that one of the main reasons Cage was attracted to the Presley daughter was because of his obsession with the King, which we're assuming would make for really awkward first date conversation.

Tom Cruise and Cher

Believe it or not, these two were together for a few months in the 1980s. Then again, it was the 1980s. A lot of things that shock us today weren't so surprising back then.

Rufus Wainwright weds

Musician Rufus Wainwright has tied the knot.

Publicist Bianca Bianconi confirmed Wainwright and Jorn Weisbrodt were married in a ceremony last Thursday.

People reports the 39-year-old musician and the artistic director of the Luminato Festival were married by close friend and artist Justin Vivian Bond in a ceremony in Montauk on Long Island. Wainwright and Weisbrodt have a one-year-old daughter together in a parenting partnership with Lorca Cohen, daughter of Leonard Cohen. Wainwright and Weisbrodt were engaged in 2010.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rufus Wainwright and Jorn Weisbrodt were engaged in 2010. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Battlefield of love. Usher gets custody of his boys after court fight with ex

Grammy-winning R&B singer Usher was awarded custody on Friday of his two sons, ending a long legal fight with his ex-wife.

Fulton County U.S. Superior Court Judge Bensonetta Tipton Lane ruled that the 33-year-old singer will have primary custody of Usher Raymond V and Naviyd Ely Raymond, according to court clerk's office spokeswoman Cherrise Boone. His custody will start Sept. 1.

Boone said Usher and his ex-wife Tameka Foster Raymond will have joint legal custody.

Usher's lawyer, Ivory Brown, did not immediately return a call on Friday. Lisa West, a lawyer for Tameka Raymond, did not immediately return an email seeking comment.

Usher, whose real name is Usher Raymond IV, married Tameka Raymond in 2007. They divorced two years later. In May, Usher testified that Tameka Raymond spit at and tried to fight his girlfriend during one visit and that his ex-wife hit him during the dispute. He said he didn't press charges because: "I didn't want the boys to know that their father put their mother in jail."

Tameka Raymond's attorney claimed that Usher provoked her client and that his account is exaggerated.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Lawyer for paparazzo charged in Bieber chase will fight Calif. law aimed at celebrity pursuits

The Word

Katy Perry and John Mayer expire

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Katy Perry has joined the surprisingly long list of hot, talented women to be dumped by John Mayer.

After two months, Mayer — who has also dated Jennifer Aniston, Jessica Simpson and Taylor Swift — called things off with the singer late last week, according to RadarOnline.

Unlike the rest of us, Perry apparently thought Mayer had grown up since his days of bragging about his A-list sex life in Playboy.

"Katy fell hook, line and sinker for John, so when he broke it off she was ultimately surprised and incredibly embarrassed," a source tells the site.

"She's ashamed that she got played. It was the classic ladies man move — he added another notch on his bedpost. He charmed Katy, got what he wanted and moved on."

Katy, don't be embarrassed that you got played by a sleazy guy – be embarrassed that you got played by the guy who wrote Your Body is a Wonderland.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The spawn of Snooki born — signalling arrival of the apocalypse

Jersey Shore star Nicole Snooki Polizzi gave birth to a baby boy over the weekend in Livingston, N.J., according to Us Weekly.

The boy, named Lorenzo, is the first child for Polizzi and her boyfriend of two years, Jionni LaValle.

"The world just got another Guido! Lorenzo Dominic LaValle has entered the world weighing six pounds, five ounces. Nicole, Jionni and Enzo are doing great!" her rep tells the magazine.

Snooki

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Anna Faris.

Faris and Pratt become parents

Actress Anna Faris and husband Chris Pratt became parents this weekend when Faris, of Scary Movie and Lost in Translation fame, gave birth to their first child, a boy named Jack, according to Us Weekly.

The baby "arrived earlier than expected and will be spending some time in the NICU," a representative for Faris says.

"The happy parents thank you for your warm wishes and ask that you honor their privacy at this time."

Twitter

@MillaJovovich
So we hit 1 mill! How cool! So now its contest time!!! let the games begin and "may the odds be EVER in your favour"

@peeweeherman
Goodbye, Neil Armstrong - courageous pioneer and hero.

@ActuallyNPH
I'm co-producing a terrifying interactive horror play in a 107yr old mansion in L.A!

@kathynajimy
wow, thanx. woke up 2 GAGGLE o new shiny followers! what gives? did U finally find the yams & george michael cds i been putting under your pillows?

Prince Harry.

Prince Harry gets public dressing down

Prince Harry is reportedly planning to make a public mea culpa for the naked photo scandal from his recent trip to Las Vegas, according to Radar Online.

"Harry regrets the embarrassment he has caused the royal family around the world and plans on apologizing for his antics," a source says of the situation.

"He got a stern-telling off from his father, Prince Charles, as well as the Queen, who reminded him of his responsibilities as a member of the royal family. Even on vacation, the Prince has to realize that he is an ambassador for the country and should behave appropriately."

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CIBC Run for the Cure†

Sunday, September 30, 2012
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Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation

CIBC FOR WHAT MATTERS.

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LIFE 3

Parents' back to school 101: Letting them go

Parenting. Don't let your nerves take over as your little ones board that school bus

MEREDITH ENGEL
Metro World News in New York City

Acknowledging that you're nervous about your child heading off to school is the first step to feeling better. ISTOCK

Pop quiz: Who's more nervous about starting school this year, you or your child?

If it's you, "it's a very normal response to have," says Matthew Stevenson, a child and family therapist in Philadelphia.

We asked him how parents can send their little ones off to school without letting their nerves take over.

Why does this anxiety happen?

It usually happens the first couple of times that a parent leaves their child alone, even for a couple hours. It's a natural thing to be worried about the person that you brought into the world, that you're responsible for, if you're not there when you are there typically. Particularly the stay-at-home parents, for them to be with this person 24/7 for five years and then to have them go off alone, that can cause a lot of stress. And it's a very normal thing to experience that stress. They're worried about their kid because they know they can keep their child safe. They've been doing it for five years, and now they're giving that responsibility to somebody else. It's hard to let go of that control. Where it can potentially become a problem is if that stress is being picked up by the child.

How can parents feel better?

Acknowledge it. The parent needs to realize that this is something they're concerned about — that's step one. Once they're able to acknowledge that, understand that it's a pretty normal anxiety to have. Step two is that it's important for parents to realize that they need to let their child go. That's part of the growth of their child, to have that independence and be able to function and do well without having the parent present all the time. Part of being a good parent is having your child thrive when you're not around. Then once you are able to let your child go to school, it's important to keep yourself occupied during those times. Have activities, do errands that are a lot easier to do without a child. Join classes, go to the gym — anything that would distract you so before you know it, it's time to pick up your little one.

When is this a problem that needs some extra help?

If the parent is going to school to watch their kid at recess, that would be not healthy. I think calling the school multiple times during the day to make sure that their child is OK, that would not be healthy. Showing that you're so upset, and your child picks up on that and then doesn't want to go to school, that's where it becomes a big issue. If you're able to hide your anxiety from your child, and they still enjoy going to school, it's not as much of a problem. But if it's affecting the entire family, then at that point it's probably good to seek help from a therapist.

Pick efficiency over negativity

Whether it's a source of chest-thumping pride or wearisome resignation, the lament of being busy is one that echoes throughout schools, workplaces and homes.

While multitasking may seem an efficient way to breeze through a stacked schedule, it may have the opposite effect.

"We wear multitasking as a badge of honour," said Margaret Moore, CEO of Wellcoaches Corporation. "Well, the challenge here is that we're working against the way the brain was designed to work."

"When you really focus on getting something done, you use all of your brain's resources," she added. "Those are the moments when you see connections that you don't see when you only use a little bit of your brain's resources."

Juggling multiple tasks may actually have the opposite effect. PABLO MARTINES, AP/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Canadian-born, U.S.-based executive wellness coach teamed up with Harvard psychiatrist Paul Hammerness to co-author Organize Your Mind, Organize Your Life.

Moore said people can get caught up in "negative static" for any number of reasons, from a significant worry to thoughts of tackling a big to-do list.

"It is important to be able to take a deep breath, to mindfully separate yourself from the negativity when you sit down to focus," said Moore. "It's not that you won't come back to it later. It's not about suppressing it, and it's not about forgetting about it. It's more about saying: 'For the time I want to get something important done, I need to put it aside.'"

Valeri Hall Little of Intandem Productivity Solutions said being strapped for time is among the main concerns expressed by clients. "I like them to think about their day or their week or their month as a container, and think about the goals that they need to achieve in that amount of time."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the Web

Reason Mommy Drinks #73: Crippling paranoia when you're not around. Scan this code to find out why.

On the web

metronews.ca

- **Babysitter issues.** Is the babysitter playing with baby or playing FarmVille? Follow along with the comedic (mis)adventures of mommyhood with Reasons Mommy Drinks at metronews.ca/voices

Turn tonight's dinner into tomorrow's unique lunch

The best dinners are those that not only are delicious in their own right, but that also leave leftovers that can be reworked into lunch the next day.

This recipe for grilled hoisin pork tenderloin is perfect. The dinner itself is simple: Just toss the marinated tenderloin on the grill along with a few vegetables and it's good to go.

The next day, turn the leftover pork into barbecue pulled pork by pulling it apart and mixing it with barbecue sauce. It can be eaten on a bun or in a wrap. It also can be served warm or cold.

Grilled Hoisin Pork Tenderloin With Cumin Onions

This recipe makes enough for four dinners and two lunches. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 9.4-oz jar hoisin sauce
- 1 cup red wine
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp hot sauce
- 2-lbs pork tenderloins
- 5 large yellow onions
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp whole cumin seeds

1. In large zip-close plastic bag, combine hoisin, wine, soy sauce, garlic and hot sauce. Seal bag and gently shake to mix well. Add pork tenderloin — then close bag and gently turn to ensure the meat is well coated. Refrigerate for at least two hours and up to 24 hours.

2. Trim ends from onions, then peel off outer layer of skin. Place onions in a second large zip-close plastic bag; add olive oil, a bit of salt and pepper, and cumin seeds. Seal bag, gently shake to coat evenly. Refrigerate until ready to grill meat.

3. When ready to cook, heat one side of the grill to medium-high, the other side to low.

4. Using oil-soaked paper towel held with tongs, oil the grill grates. Add whole onions to cooler side of grill. Grill, covered, for 5 minutes. Turn onions, then add pork to cooler side of grill. Grill pork for 6 minutes per side. Remove onions when very tender and meat when it is seared on outside and reaches 145 F at centre.

5. Transfer pork and onions to a platter and let the meat rest for 5 minutes. Thinly slice the pork and serve with an onion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Healthy eating

Choose it and lose it

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit rosereisman.com

One of the best parts of summer is sitting on a patio and sipping some delicious alcoholic beverages. Think twice before you order your next drink.

2 (8 oz) glasses of wine

400 calories
Summer, barbecues and alcohol go hand in hand. But watch the wine because two glasses of red or white contain a whopping 400 calories.

Equivalent

Two eight-ounce glasses of wine are equal in calories to 17 Italian style meatballs.

2 (8 oz) Pilsner beer

200 calories
With half the calories, enjoy your favourite beer instead of the wine. Remember not to drink your calories.

Pork and Veggie Wrap. Tasty, healthy & stuffed

PRESS/PUTPORKONYOURFORK.COM

Ingredients

- 3 boneless pork chops (loin, sirloin or rib)
- 1 each green and red pepper, cut into strips
- 2 portobello mushrooms, cut into slices
- 1 large red onion, cut into wedges, separated
- 2 small zucchini, thickly sliced
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) balsamic vinegar
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) Italian season ing
- 10 ml (2 tsp) crushed red pepper flakes
- 4 large (25-cm/10-inch) whole-wheat tortillas
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) spreadable cream cheese (reduced fat)

1. Coat a large baking pan with cooking spray.

2. Trim any visible fat from pork. Arrange meat and vegetables in a single layer on a baking pan.

3. In a small bowl, combine vinegar, oil, Italian seasoning and red pepper flakes. Brush mixture on both sides of pork. Broil 12 to 15 cm (five to six inches) from heat for 6 to 10 minutes or until pork is browned and vegetables are crisp and tender.

4. Meanwhile, spread each tortilla with a layer of cream cheese.

5. Remove pork from oven and slice into strips. Divide pork pieces and vegetables among tortillas; wrap tightly before serving. THE CANADIAN

Steam these tasty pork dumplings to perfection

You'll find wontons in virtually every grocer, usually in the produce section next to the tofu and other Asian ingredients.

They are available in a variety of sizes, though three-inch squares tend to be the most versatile.

The larger sizes can be a bit unwieldy once filled.

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

Dumplings
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp hoisin sauce
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp toasted sesame oil
- 1 tsp hot sauce
- 1 lb ground pork
- 1/2 cup finely grated carrots
- 4 finely chopped scallions
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 8-oz can water chestnuts, finely chopped
- 12-oz package 3-inch square wonton wrappers

Dipping sauce
- 3 tbsp toasted sesame oil
- 2 tbsp rice vinegar
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp chopped cilantro
- 1 tsp sugar
- Pinch red pepper flakes

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the egg, hoisin, soy sauce, sesame oil and hot sauce. Add the pork, carrots, scallions, cilantro and water chestnuts, then mix well.

2. One at a time, place one tablespoon of the pork mixture in the centre of each wonton. Dunk your fingers in water, then use them to wet the edges of the wrapper. Gather the edges of the wrapper over the filling, pinching them together to form a small purse. Repeat with the remaining filling and wrappers.

3. In a large sauté pan, bring about one inch of water to a boil. Set a bamboo or other steamer basket over the water, then lightly coat it with cooking spray.

4. Working in batches if necessary, arrange the dumplings in the steamer (they should not touch), then cover and steam for 15 minutes.

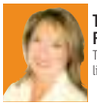
5. Meanwhile, prepare the dipping sauce. In a small bowl, whisk together all ingredients. Serve the dumplings hot with the dipping sauce.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Get to know a warrior at work

Businesswoman, humanitarian and survivor, Glori Meldrum / PROVIDED

Survivor's success. Glori Meldrum is a businesswoman determined to give something back



THE IN-CREDIBILITY FACTOR
Teresa Kruze
life@metronews.ca

"I think I want to start my own company".

Glori Meldrum sat across the dinner table from her husband and weighed her options.

Having just moved from New Brunswick to Edmonton, the bachelor of commerce grad was working as a promotions director at a radio station and was making $27,000 a year.

They looked at each other and knew the answer was clear.

"Let's do it".

Today, Glori owns two companies, g (squared) and trafik interactive and is a proud wife and mother of three children including a five-year-old boy she adopted from Ethiopia.

Meldrum is also giving back.

As a survivor of child abuse she is raising money to build Little Warriors Be Brave Ranch.

"In most major markets there are two to three facilities for sex offenders but not for kids.

"My dream is to build a spiritual oasis where a neglected survivor can be given the tools they need to heal their body and spirit and mind.

"It's not about money. It's about having a loving, balanced, happy life and being of service to others. It's that simple."

Glori's guide to life

Keys to success:

- Have vision and execute.
- Be true to yourself, employees and clients. Then the right team and clients will be built around you.
- Always act from a place of love. Even if I have to let an employee or client go, I do it from a point of authenticity and love.
- People are your most valuable asset. Hire people that reflect your own values to create a good team.
- Remember that fear only exists in your mind. If I'm scared of something I force myself and get in and get it done. I just do it.
- **littlewarriors.ca**

Remove the fear from the first day

Breezing into the books. Don't assume your child isn't excited to embark on their scholastic life

LINDA CLARKE
life@metronews.ca

The first day at school isn't what it used to be.

These days, by the time most children start formal education they're relatively comfortable with separation from the home and parent, says Jayne Singer, Ph.D., the clinical director of the Child and Parent Program at Boston Children's Hospital.

"Children who have had high-quality day care or preschool make a better transition to school both emotionally and socially," she says.

Still, even leaving a private play-based preschool to go to a public school is a big transition, and there's a lot parents can do to ease a child's stress with any environmental change. When it comes to easing anxiety, familiarity breeds comfort.

"Give the child guidance; show them pictures of their new classroom or school.

A lot of schools have the good sense to hold open houses or have a welcome visit. Visit the school, visit the playground. Show them the classroom and where they will play. The sense of familiarity will ease anxiety."

"Also," adds Singer, "younger children do well with concrete reminders about the passage of time. Get a calendar and mark off the days until school starts. Turn it into a craft project. Say, make a flower and add a petal for each day."

One thing parents should watch for is transferring their anxiety.

"Parents shouldn't assume a child is anxious or feels separation. Don't ask, 'Are you scared?' Let the child bring it up and if they do, say, 'Of course you are. I feel nervous when I do something new.'"

Parents should also get ready in advance

"Have a conversation with personnel at the school so you are prepared for the environment," says Singer. "The more parents know about the school, the more authentic they are in offering guidance to the child. Tell your child they will have a chance to play, they will have a place to draw and paint. Give them concrete examples of what is there. Give them a vision of the classroom as a kind and supportive place."

They're going to have to do their homework, and so should you! ISTOCK

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Golf

Watney comes out on top at tough Barclays

Even after a year that didn't come close to his expectations, Nick Watney wasn't about to give up on his season.

Amazing how one week changed his outlook in so many ways.

He beat one of the strongest fields of the year at The Barclays, on the tough track of Bethpage Black. Winning the opening playoff event for the FedEx Cup guarantees him a good shot at the $10-million prize. And suddenly, playing in the Ryder Cup becomes a lot more realistic.

That all came into play Sunday when Watney didn't miss a green until the 16th hole, turned a two-shot deficit against Sergio Garcia into a three-shot lead, overcame a trio of three-putt bogeys with clutch birdies, and closed with a 2-under 69 for a three-shot victory.

Graham DeLaet (65) of Weyburn, Sask., fired the best round of the day to wind up in a four-way tie for fifth, four shots off the lead at 6 under.

"It's been not quite the year I wanted," Watney said. "But this really makes it all forgotten. Winning a tournament is hard, but winning out here and against this field was very, very difficult. I'm kind of still on a high right now."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nick Watney celebrates on Sunday in Farmingdale, N.Y. GETTY IMAGES

Lydia Ko kisses the Canadian Women's Open trophy on Sunday in Coquitlam, B.C. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kiwi teen Ko wins Canadian Open at 15

Golf. New Zealand youth breaks record as youngest ever LPGA event winner

Quoted

"I didn't even know what I (was) doing when I (was) 15. So it's pretty amazing to see her play this good (on) the best stage."

World No. 1 Yani Tseng on Lydia Ko's win

Lydia Ko is not going to the bank to cash a champion's cheque, but she still gets what many pro golfers do not yet have.

Recognition in the World Golf Hall of Fame.

The 15-year-old amateur made her mark in history Sunday as she became the youngest ever winner of an LPGA event by capturing the Canadian Women's Open title with a 5-under 67.

Since Ko is still an amateur, she could not collect the top prize of $300,000. But her glove will be displayed in the World Golf Hall of Fame.

"To have something that's mine to be up there, it's amazing, and it doesn't come down or anything," she said. "So it will always remain there, and it'll be a good memory. It's been an awesome week."

The New Zealander finished with a 13-under 275 total to beat Inbee Park of South Korea by three strokes. But the cash went to Park, who made the score closer by chipping in for birdie from an estimated 40 yards on the final hole.

"The pressure she was handling is really amazing," said Park. "I'm really happy for her. It's great for her career — and I think I was just lucky to get the winner's cheque today."

Ko became just the fifth amateur to win an LPGA tournament and first since JoAnne Carner of the U.S. back in 1969.

Even though Ko is an amateur, LPGA veterans kept with tradition for first-time tour winners and doused her with water. However, her first win in an LPGA was not as meaningful as the U.S. Amateur crown she won earlier this year.

"I didn't cry after this one," said Ko, "but (after) that one I did cry," she said. "Yeah, to me, U.S. Amateur is a big event, and obviously this is a huge event as well. But still, as an amateur winning one of the biggest amateur events, I feel like it was a better win — even though this one was awesome."

Despite the big pro win, the Grade 11 student said she still plans to remain as an amateur and go to college in the U.S.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. Open next stop on Grand Slam grind

Champion at Wimbledon in both singles and doubles. Winner again at the All England Club in both events, four weeks later at the Olympics.

Nobody would blame Serena Williams if she felt worn down by this year's jam-packed tennis calendar. She doesn't see it that way, though — even with the grind of the U.S. Open looming in New York.

"I look forward to this," Williams said. "It's almost like a launching pad for what I want to do for the rest of the hard-court season."

In a way, yes, Monday's start of the year's last Grand Slam marks a new beginning — the kickoff of a six-month stretch on the hard courts ends with the 2013 Australian Open.

Call it mental gymnastics, a creative way of looking at things or whatever else might apply. What can't be denied is that in an Olympic year, the U.S. Open — considered the toughest test in tennis under normal circumstances — is essentially the season's fifth major.

"A lot of them," Jim Courier said, "are running on fumes."

Indeed, many top players have had to double down on their fitness and find creative ways of organizing their schedules.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic barely took any time off following his fourth-place finish at the Olympics. He travelled to Toronto for a tune-up and won the tournament.

Then, he flew to Cincinnati, played six more matches but lost to Roger Federer in the final that included a 6-0 whitewashing in the first set.

"Mentally, I wasn't there, wasn't fresh," Djokovic said. "It had been a very busy time starting at the Olympic Games, and maybe that caught up with me at the end."

The second-seeded Djokovic won the Australian Open. Rafael Nadal won the French Open. Top-seeded Federer won Wimbledon. Just for good measure, third-seeded Andy Murray won the Olympics, meaning the U.S. Open could essentially determine the player of the year in men's tennis.

Though the women's game has been more in flux than the men's of late — seven different winners over the past seven Grand Slams — the math is essentially the same in 2012: Three of the top four women — No. 1 Victoria Azarenka, No. 3 Maria Sharapova and No. 4 Williams — have major titles this year and all need this one to break the tie.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I think it was a sign my body just needed to slow down."

Maria Sharapova, who pulled out of her final two tune-up tournaments before the U.S. Open.

4 SPORTS

Mobile sports

Seahawks coaches and management were raving about how good Terrell Owens looked when he signed with Seattle earlier this month. That enthusiasm proved short-lived though as the controversial 38-year-old receiver was released by the club on Sunday.

Orioles defying the stats

MLB. Pundits wrote off early-season success as fluke, but O's hold AL's second wild-card spot

The improbable success of the Baltimore Orioles this season has provided baseball fans with a useful reminder that even in this age of advanced analytics and carefully calculated projections, sport remains an unscripted theatre.

You never know what might happen, because — as they say — you've got to play the games.

The consensus favourite to finish last in the AL East after 14 consecutive losing seasons, the plucky O's have defied every expectation placed upon them this year. While most prognosticators wrote off their early-season success as a fluke, they just kept winning.

Now, with little more than a month left, they sit just four games back of the New York Yankees for the division lead.

On Sunday, Baltimore added left-hander Joe Saunders to bolster their fledgling, patchwork rotation as they try to maintain their grip on a playoff spot through the home stretch.

But just how the Orioles are doing this remains something of a mystery.

They are the only team in the majors with a winning record and a negative run differential, a measurement that is usually a reliable predictor of a team's success.

Before Sunday's rained out game with Toronto, Baltimore had scored 46 fewer runs than they had allowed.

The O's have committed more errors than any other team in the AL and have stolen the fewest bases.

"We've been lucky," manager Buck Showalter conceded. "Some things worked out that probably conventionally shouldn't have."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

J.J. Hardy, right, celebrates with Chris Davis after scoring in the third inning against the Toronto Blue Jays on Saturday in Baltimore. GREG FIUME/GETTY IMAGES

Offence clicks for Manning in final pre-season outing

Broncos receiver Eric Decker makes a catch for a touchdown on a pass from Peyton Manning, Sunday, in Denver. Manning looked good in his final regular season tune-up, throwing his first two touchdown passes — both to Decker — in a 29-24 loss to the San Francisco 49ers. JUSTIN EDMONDS/GETTY IMAGES

Sports in pictures

1 **CFL.** LaPolice pays price for subpar season in Winnipeg

The Bombers fired head coach Paul LaPolice on Saturday and replaced him with defensive co-ordinator Tim Burke, who'll have the rest of the season to improve the 2-6 squad before his performance is evaluated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

2 **MLB.** Yanks' Granderson hits home run milestone

Curtis Granderson hit his 200th career homer as the New York Yankees beat the Cleveland Indians, 4-2, Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 **Baseball.** Clemens solid in return to mound

Pitching for the first time in five years Roger Clemens struck out two in 3 1/3 innings Saturday night in his debut for the Sugar Land Skeeters of the independent Atlantic League. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paralympics. Rugby's Hickling given flag duty

A ferocious player on the court and an unassuming man off of it, Garett Hickling will carry the Maple Leaf into Wednesday's opening ceremonies of the 2012 Paralympic Games.

Hickling will represent Canada in Paralympic wheelchair rugby for the fifth time in his career. The 41-year-old from Kelowna, B.C., was named the Canadian team's flagbearer Sunday.

"This makes me want to hold my head up high and smile hard," Hickling said.

He's intimidating on the court because of his aggression and power. Hickling has competed in every Paralympics that included wheelchair rugby, winning silver in 1996 and 2004 and bronze in 2008.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Garett Hickling, right, battles for the ball during a game against Australia in April. GETTY IMAGES FILE

MLB

Bautista makes short-lived return to Jays lineup

Blue Jays slugger Jose Bautista, who re-aggravated his left wrist sprain on Saturday, travelled to Cleveland on Sunday to visit noted hand specialist, Dr. Thomas Graham.

In just his second game back since he suffered the injury on July 16 in New York, Bautista left Saturday's game after just one at-bat citing new discomfort in the wrist. He was put back on the 15-day disabled list following the game.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IndyCar. Briscoe bursts past Power for Sonoma victory

Ryan Briscoe got past Penske teammate Will Power out of a caution pit stop Sunday and held off the two-time defending Sonoma champion for his first IndyCar victory since 2010.

After Power led for most of the race, Briscoe slipped into position for his eighth career victory when Power got caught in traffic following a scary crash for Sebastien Bourdais and Josef Newgarden.

Both drivers apparently avoided injury when Bourdais lost control on cold tires and slammed Newgarden into a protective barrier.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ryan Briscoe celebrates Sunday's win in Sonoma, Calif. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Partnerships and affairs of the heart may be a bit stormy as the week begins. Try not to overreact because it is only a passing phase and will pass a lot quicker if you stay calm, whatever the provocation.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Social activities are unlikely to appeal to you today, but matters related to your health and fitness will. Head for the gym or the pool and not only will you feel better physically but mentally and emotionally too.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You seem much more passionate than usual, and that's good, but watch out you don't go over the top in some way. Not everyone shares your interests and some people won't take kindly to you trying to "convert" them.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Your instincts about people are rarely off target but with mind planet Mercury under pressure at the moment you could get the wrong end of the stick. Don't jump to conclusions.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may be feeling ultra dynamic but not everyone out there shares your get up and go attitude to life. If there is something you want doing over the next 24 hours you will most likely have to do it yourself.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Stop worrying about money and relationship issues and just go out and have fun. Sometimes you can allow trivial things to get on top of you and that's not good, especially right at the start of the week.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The more you try to persuade friends and colleagues to get involved in your latest scheme the more they back away. Why is that? It could be because they are still hurting from how your last scheme worked out.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you get the chance to travel and meet new people over the next few days – and you will – you must seize it with both hands. Don't let those at home hold you back – their reasons are largely selfish.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Is there a grand design? Does your existence have meaning? Yes and yes again are the answers to those questions and even if you did not believe it before you will believe it today. There is no such thing as "coincidence".

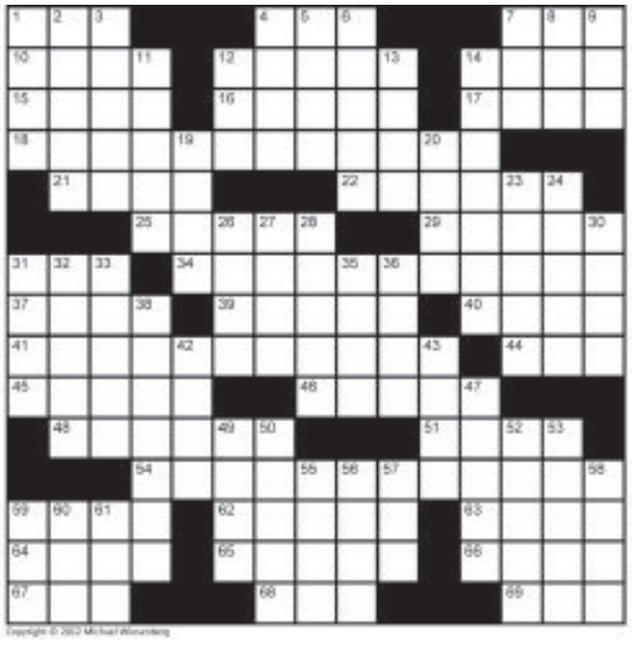
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Yes, of course, you should respect people in positions of power but that does not mean you have to do everything they say. Sometimes a bit of rebellion is a healthy thing – it keeps everyone on their toes.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't be afraid to ask people you live and work with what they think about what you are doing. Some of what they say may be critical but most of the feedback will be positive. Their input is essential.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You seem to believe that everyone but you is in on some kind of secret. It may be true but more likely you are being a bit paranoid. Stop worrying about what other people know – it's what you know that matters. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: A Team Member, a Party, a Group, and a Game

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. Attractive leg, slangily
4. Cab alternative
7. Parliamentarians
10. Amor's Greek counterpart
12. Madras master
14. Short note
15. Princess of Star Wars
16. Angry bull's sound
17. "The ___-bitsy spider ..."
18. Province whose name means "swift flowing" in the Cree language
21. Endlessly worry
22. "Forget about it!" (from a casino term) (2 wds.)
25. Moves through mud
29. "___ Your Name": Mamas & Papas song (2 wds.)
31. Big letters for Internet stock companies
34. Buffy ___ (2 wds.)
37. Small iPod
39. Air conditioner coolant
40. Goes bad
41. They're in BC's Strait of Georgia (2 wds.)
44. ___ Miserables
45. Far above the ground
46. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest novelist Ken
48. "He ___ the bank, three credit cards, four department stores": has much outstanding debt (2 wds.)
51. CFL whistle blowers
54. City in the Golden Horseshoe region of southern Ontario (2 wds.)
59. After-bath powder
62. Before surgery, informally
63. Bring in a harvest
64. "... there ___ square": it's the happening thing (2 wds.)
65. Weird
66. Computer menu selection
67. Parts of mos.
68. "Help!"
69. Repair tears

Down
1. Becomes semisolid
2. Fields of learning
3. Damp
4. BMO, for one: Fr.
5. "Here comes trouble!" (2 wds.)
6. Ambulance alert
7. Encountered
8. Parliament heads
9. Asian sauce type
11. "For goodness' ___!"
12. Air France fleet component, once: initialism
13. Vitamin ___: riboflavin (2 wds.)
14. Subcompact
19. Belt-hole makers
20. Take ___ view of: be pessimistic about (2 wds.)
23. Christmas song
24. Crème de la crème
26. Blockheads
27. Damsel
28. Behave furtively
30. Not more
31. Actress Swenson of Benson (anagram of GAIN)
32. São ___: Brazil's largest city
33. At the minimum setting (2 wds.)
35. Vocal sound
36. Finishes
38. Side with the football
42. Odd-sounding but grammatically correct answer to "Who's there?" (2 wds.)
43. Vassal
47. 2012 and 2013
49. Record, in a way
50. Shrek and Fiona, for two
52. Bloodsucking parasites
53. NWT's Great ___ Lake
55. Nestle candy bar from Britain
56. Kings: Fr.
57. Friend of Tarzan
58. Gush
59. CAA service
60. 40 days and 40 nights boat
61. 16-oz. units

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

			8		4			
	6	8	3		9	1	5	
	3	2				4	8	
			6		2			
8								7
			4		7			
	1	3				7	4	
	7	4	5		8	6	2	
			7		3			

Yesterday's Sudoku

Sharability

easy — hard

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